

APPLYING FOR THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

2/10

Medicare Savings Programs

- ▶ **QMB – Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries**
 - *Pays for Medicare Part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance) monthly premiums; and*
 - *Deductibles and coinsurance charges for all Medicare covered services, including Medicare services not covered by Medicaid*
 - *Part A premiums, if any – and if the person is already enrolled in Part A*

- ▶ **SLIB (SLMB) – Specified Low Income Beneficiaries**
 - *Pays for Medicare Part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance) monthly premiums*

- ▶ **QI-1 – Qualified Individuals**
 - *Pays for Medicare Part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance) monthly premiums*

Eligibility for MSP

Eligible individuals must:

- Have Medicare Part A (or Medicare Advantage)
- Meet the income standard
- Meet the asset standard
- Be an Illinois resident
- Provide their Social Security Number
- Assign medical support rights

What Income is Counted?

- Earned income from a job minus employment expenses
- Self-employment income minus business costs
- Social Security, Railroad, Veterans Benefits, or Retirement Pensions
- Child Support or Maintenance received
- Rental Income
- Trust or Annuity Payments
- Other income such as Royalties, Oil/Mineral Rights

2009 Monthly Income Standards*

	QMB 0-100% FPL	SLIB (SLMB) 100-120% FPL	QI-1 120-135% FPL
1 person	\$903	\$1,083	\$1,218
2 people	\$1,214	\$1,457	\$1,639

*\$25 income deduction is given and earned income deductions, if applicable

2009 income standards are used until March 2010 when new standards may be announced

What Assets are Counted?

- Savings and Checking accounts,
- Certificates of deposits, money market accounts
- Stocks, bonds, mutual funds
- Retirement accounts
- Cash value of life insurance
- Funeral/burial plans and burial plots
- Other assets such as nursing home accounts or mineral/oil rights

Asset Standards for MSP

	2009	2010
1 person	\$4,000	\$6,600
2 people +	\$6,000	\$9,910

Starting with 2010, asset limits may change every year

How do I apply for MSP?

- Apply for MSP at the same time you apply for other state medical programs through the DHS Family Community Resource Center by mail or in person
- Apply for MSP only through the DHS Family Community Resource Center by mail or in person
- Apply through the SSA Extra Help application beginning 1/1/10

What form do I use?

- ▶ To apply for a state medical card and MSP:
 - Apply online at www.dhs.state.il.us,
 - Mail Form 2378H to the DHS office – download the form at www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/hfs2378h.pdf, or
 - Go to the DHS office and apply in person
- ▶ To apply for MSP only
 - Apply online at www.dhs.state.il.us,
 - Mail Form 2378M to the DHS office – download the form at www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/hfs2378m.pdf, or
 - Go to the DHS office and apply in person
- ▶ To apply through SSA – file the LIS application at www.ssa.gov or use Form SSA1020

When does Coverage Begin?

- QMB – the month after the application is approved by DHS
- SLIB & QI-1 – up to 3 months before the application month if the person was eligible
- It takes SSA 3-4 months to stop deducting the Part B premium from the SSA check. The person will get a refund.

How Long does Coverage Continue?

- FCRCs should complete an annual redetermination to review eligibility
- MSP should be continued, if eligible - even if other eligibility ends
- Contact the FCRC to add MSP to an existing medical or cash case. A new application is not needed.

MIPPA Changes Affecting MSP

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act

beginning 1/1/10

- Higher asset limit - \$6,600 for 1 person ,
\$9,910 for 2
- Application for SSA Extra Help is also for MSP
- No estate recovery for MSP